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300935Z Dec 02

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 002490

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SA/INS
STATE ALSO PLEASE PASS USAID/DCHA/OFDA
USAID FOR ANE/AA GORDON WEST AND JIM BEVER
MANILA FOR USAID/DCHA/OFDA
LONDON FOR POL/REIDEL
TREASURY FOR GENERAL COUNSEL/DAUFHAUSER AND DAS JZARATE
TREASURY ALSO FOR OFAC/RNEWCOMB AND TASK FORCE ON TERRORIST
FINANCING
JUSTICE FOR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL/DLAUFMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: NEPAL: MAOISTS BOMB SCHOOL DORMITORY, SEVEN INJURED

1. Summary: Five children, a teacher and a secondary school principal were injured when Maoists bombed an occupied school dormitory in Kathmandu on the evening of December 27. The attack was apparently aimed at the home of the Minister of Education, and the local group of insurgents has apologized for the 'accidental' student casualties. End summary.

2. On the evening of December 27, a bomb exploded near the occupied dormitory of East Pole Secondary School in the northeastern Jorpati area of Kathmandu Valley. Five children, a teacher and the school principal were injured in the blast, with the youngest victim only three years of age. Security sources report that the bomb was planted near the main entrance to the residence of Education Minister Devi Prasad Ojha and was apparently intended to blow up the Minister's parked car. The school dormitory is located on the same compound as Ojha's house.

3. On December 28, Kathmandu newspapers reported that the Valley Bureau of the Maoist Liberation Army had released a statement claiming responsibility for the bombing, also apologizing for the injuries, which were described as an "accident." The press release promised compensation to the school and the victims, to be delivered "in due time."

4. Comment: The apology released by the local branch of the Maoists is academically interesting, but expressions of remorse and promises of compensation by the insurgents are far from credible. Maoist promises have repeatedly and consistently been proven false. Unabated attacks on mainstream party workers and infrastructure, despite the leadership's December 3 pledge to call a moratorium, are only the most recent examples. Claiming that the children injured on December 27 were accidental casualties--collateral damage of an attack on a GON official--does nothing to obviate responsibility for yet another example of innocent bystanders victimized by the Maoists' indiscriminate campaign of terror.
MALINOWSKI